

Configuration Not Saving in Magento 2 (max_input_vars)

for

Saving your Magento 2 configuration but nothing changes? You might see a success message, yet values revert to their previous state. This is often caused by PHP's `max_input_vars` limit being exceeded.

The Problem

Magento 2 configuration pages can contain hundreds or even thousands of form fields, especially when you have multiple store views or websites. PHP's `max_input_vars` directive (default: 1000) limits how many input variables can be submitted in a single request.

When this limit is exceeded, PHP **silently truncates** the POST data. Magento receives incomplete data but doesn't know anything is missing, so it appears to save successfully while only partial (or no) changes are actually stored.

Symptoms

- Configuration shows "success" message but values didn't change
- Some fields save correctly, others revert to previous values
- Problem occurs on pages with many fields (System Config, extension settings)
- Works fine on smaller configuration pages
- Issue is worse with multiple store views/websites

Quick Diagnosis

Check Current Limit

```
php -i | grep max_input_vars
```

Or create a `phpinfo.php` file in your webroot:

```
<?php phpinfo();
```

Look for `max_input_vars` in the output.

Check POST Data Size

Open browser DevTools (F12), go to the Network tab, submit your config form, and check the request payload. Count the parameters or look at the Form Data section.

Solution

Increase `max_input_vars` in your PHP configuration.

Via `php.ini`

Find your `php.ini` file and update:

```
max_input_vars = 10000
```

Restart PHP-FPM or your web server after making changes.

Via `.htaccess` (Apache with `mod_php`)

Add to your Magento root `.htaccess` :

```
php_value max_input_vars 10000
```

Via `.user.ini` (PHP-FPM)

Create or edit `.user.ini` in your Magento root:

```
max_input_vars = 10000
```

Note: Changes via `.user.ini` may take a few minutes to apply (controlled by `user_ini.cache_ttl`).

Recommended Values

Store Setup	Recommended Value
Single store	5000
2-5 store views	10000
5-10 store views	20000
10+ store views	30000+

Verify the Fix

After making changes:

1. Restart PHP/webserver

2. Check the new value: `php -i | grep max_input_vars`
3. Try saving your configuration again
4. Verify values are actually stored

```
bin/magento config:show path/to/your/config
```

Troubleshooting

Still Not Working

Contact your hosting provider. Some hosts don't allow changing this value directly, or the setting may be managed elsewhere.

Suhosin Extension

If you have the Suhosin security extension installed, it has its own limits:

```
suhosin.post.max_vars = 10000  
suhosin.request.max_vars = 10000
```

Cloudflare / WAF

Some CDNs or Web Application Firewalls limit POST request size. Check your CDN settings if PHP configuration is correct.

Related Settings

Other PHP settings that can affect form submissions:

```
; Maximum POST data size  
post_max_size = 64M  
  
; Maximum number of files in one request  
max_file_uploads = 20  
  
; Maximum execution time (large configs may timeout)  
max_execution_time = 300
```

Prevention

For stores with many store views, consider:

- Using `bin/magento config:set` for bulk configuration changes
- Storing configuration in `app/etc/config.php` (environment-specific config)
- Using deployment pipelines to manage configuration

Need More Help?

Documentation:

- [All Help Articles](#) - Complete documentation overview

Support:

- [Contact Support](#) - Get help from our team

